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FM AMEMBASSY ABUJA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5379

UNCLAS ABUJA 000350

IO/MPR - BRIAN G HACKETT, L/UNA - DARIN JOHNSON, USUN/MR -  
BRUCE RASHKOW

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: NIGERIA'S VIEWS ON UNDT CANDIDATE IZUAKO

REF: A. ABUJA 342

[1](#)B. STATE 16118

As requested ref B, on February 26 Mrs. Adenkunbi Sonaike-Ayodeji of the Nigerian Ministry of Foreign Affairs First United Nations Division provided the following information on behalf of the GON regarding Nigeria's candidate for the UN Dispute Tribunal, Judge Nkemdilim Amelia Izuako. Begin text:

- Judicial expertise: In addition to currently serving as a high court judge in the Solomon Islands, Judge Izuako previously held office as a high court judge in Anambra State (1998-2003) and in the Gambia (2004-2006), and also as an acting judge on the Gambia Court of Appeal (2004-2006). She has been a lecturer in employment law with extensive experience in both employment law cases and judicial review of administrative action from 2004 to 2006. Judge Izuako was appointed a judge in 1998.

- Reputation: Judge Izuako has a reputation for independence and impartiality, as well as judicial activism.

- Ability to follow the law as written: Judge Izuako leans in favor of an expansive interpretation of the law. She uses a justice-based approach rather than a rules-based view of interpretation.

- Level served: Within Nigeria, Judge Izuako has served both as a State High Court Judge and as a Federal Judge.

End text.

- Views concerning fitness of candidate: No response.

- Disqualifying information: No response.

- Other relevant views: No response.

- Views on other candidates: No response.

SANDERS